

also the only non-Native American on the basketball team in my little hometown of Bennington, Oklahoma, which was one of the early-time headquarters of Native Americans and one of the largest populations of Native Americans of Choctaw background.

In my immediate family, I spent probably more time with the Native American families, spending nights there and spending many days working in their culture and understanding the culture of the Native Americans in my district.

But we have longed for the time, I think, where we should hold up and honor the Native Americans for their tremendous sacrifice, for their tremendous contributions, not only to our State of Oklahoma, but to this Nation and to really our freedoms that we enjoy today. Probably there is no one any more American that feels the patriotism of being American than our Native American brothers and sisters.

So, for this particular legislation to come forth concerning this Native American museum, to hold this up, I want to commend my good friend, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. CARSON) for his efforts. I am sincere about that, what the gentleman is doing along these lines.

So without anything else, I would like to say I appreciate the time of the chairman. I know, Mr. Chairman, in Colorado you have a lot of Native Americans in your fine State also.

I rise today in support of H.R. 2742. This legislation will authorize a grant for the development and construction of a Native American Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma, Brad Carson, for his work on behalf of Native Americans and also for offering this legislation that I am proud to co-sponsor.

Oklahoma has one of the largest American Indian populations of any state. Currently, Oklahoma is home to 39 recognized Indian Tribes. We are very proud in Oklahoma of our Native American heritage. In fact, Oklahoma means "red man." I know from my personal experience Native Americans in my area of Oklahoma make a major contribution to the state.

In 1994, the Oklahoma Legislature created the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority (NACEA) "to promote the history and culture of Native Americans for the mutual benefit of the state of Oklahoma and its American Indian and non-Indian citizens." That legislation authorized the NACEA to construct and operate a Cultural Center and Museum on a chosen site in Oklahoma City. I know the Center will promote the proud history and culture of Oklahoma Native Americans.

I want to again thank my colleague for his tremendous work and role in bringing this legislation to the floor and urge passage of this important bill.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I might add, Native Americans are well protected by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WAT-

KINS) in Oklahoma as well. He watches out for all of them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for favorable consideration of the bill.

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today encouraged by the congressional support for the Native American Cultural Center and Museum to be built in Oklahoma City. Oklahoma, which boasts the highest Native American population in this country, has long needed a starting point from which to guide interested persons through our rich history. I believe that travelers passing through Oklahoma's crossroads will now encounter a facility so reflective of our State heritage, that their curiosity will be piqued. It is my hope that education and healing will occur as the pains and triumphs of our people are experienced on the grounds of this meeting place.

The Center's central location will not only benefit the heart of our people, but will also spur on the Oklahoma economy by providing new opportunities for Native American entrepreneurs and other local businesses. Furthermore, travelers will have a great place to begin their study of the intriguing native people who have ancestral roots throughout our nation. I believe in this way, visitors will experience the true Native America.

It is always wise to build upon existing strengths. It is obvious that Oklahoma's strength lies in the incredible people who have shaped its history. I look forward to the new strengths to be revealed through the creation of this native American center.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2742, a bill that authorizes the Secretary of Interior to award financial assistance grants and technical assistance grants to the Native American cultural and educational authority for the construction of a Native American cultural center and museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The bill authorizes a Federal appropriation of \$33 million over a period of four fiscal years beginning in 2003. The Federal appropriation, however, is contingent upon private, city and State sources accounting for 66 percent of the total cost of the project.

Mr. Speaker, support for a Native American Cultural Center and Museum in a state that has one of the largest Native American population of any state is long overdue. This bill has the bipartisan support of the Congressional Native American Caucus, the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation and the State's elected officials too.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate our colleague, BRAD CARSON of Oklahoma, for all his hard work and sponsorship of H.R. 2741.

Promised as the original Indian Territory, the State of Oklahoma has clearly been enriched through its Indian heritage from the Trail of Tears which moved eastern Indian tribes into the state, through the settlements of the Oklahoma Sooners, to the 39 tribes living within its border today.

It is truly a story worth telling and I look forward to one day visiting the Native American Cultural Center and Museum we are authorizing today.

Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2742, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the 3 bills just considered, H.R. 38, H.R. 1576 and H.R. 2742.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

BASIC PILOT EXTENSION ACT OF 2001

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3030) to extend the "Basic Pilot" employment verification system, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3030

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Basic Pilot Extension Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS.

Section 401(b) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is amended by striking "4-year period" and inserting "6-year period".

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendment made by this Act shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3030.